

Appln. No. 10/541,110
Amendment dated November 26, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 24, 2007

Amendments to the Drawings:

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed August 24, 2007 has been carefully considered by applicant. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments to the claims, specification and drawings, and the remarks that follow.

In general, it appears that the Examiner has examined an obsolete version of the claims for this application. The claims were amended during international processing and approved by the International Bureau on November 10, 2004. As such, only claims 1 and 2 were submitted with the application as filed. By the present Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are canceled and replaced with new claims 3-10 and the substance of the Office Action is addressed despite the apparent confusion regarding the currently pending claim set.

Title Change

The Preliminary Amendment submitted on June 30, 2005 requested several amendments to the specification, including amendment of the title of the application. It does not appear from the Patent Office records that the Preliminary Amendment was ever entered. Entry of the Amendment and acknowledgement thereof is respectfully requested.

Drawings

Fig. 1 is objected for reasons of clarity. By the present Amendment, drawing sheet 1 has been amended in accordance with the requirements in the Office Action. No new matter is added by these amendments.

Specification

The specification is amended to conform with the changes made to Fig. 1. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 2 and 3, however it is apparent that the Examiner is considering an obsolete version of the claims. Claims 1 and 2 are hereby canceled and new claims 3-10 are added. Withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Staron et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,670,862. Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C.

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§102(e) as being anticipated by Guerrero et al. U.S. Patent 7,156,192. Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Harmes U.S. Patent No. 3,125,464 in view of Freeman U.S. Patent No. 7,150,318.

By the present Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are canceled and replaced with new claims 3-10 which are believed clearly distinguishable over the cited references.

Independent claim 3 recites at least one link arrangement that is displaceable in a radial direction with respect to a central longitudinal axis defined by an elongated body (e.g. 13). The link arrangement includes first, second and third elongated links. The second link hingedly connects one end of the first link to the elongated body and the third link hingedly connects the other end of the first link to a terminal element that is displaceable in a direction that is parallel to the central longitudinal axis. The third link is connected to the terminal element by a hinge pin that is located on the opposite side of the central longitudinal axis relative to the first link. Advantageously, displacement of the terminal element in the direction parallel to the central longitudinal axis causes displacement of the link arrangement in the radial direction with respect to the central longitudinal axis.

Each of the references cited by the Examiner fail to teach or suggest the claimed link arrangement, and particularly the first, second and third links, and even more particularly a hinge pin connecting the third link to the terminal element that is located on the opposite side of the central longitudinal axis relative to the first link. The claimed location of the hinge pin has been found by the applicant to obtain the greatest possible radial force against the bore hole wall during operation. This aspect is neither taught nor suggested by the art.

Further advantages and distinctions of the claimed arrangement over the prior art arrangements are discussed on pages 1 and 2 of the application, as filed.

Staron et al. '862 relates to a measuring tool. Staron et al. '862 teaches a crawler with a casing 9 having a crawler belt 16. Displacement of a drum 13 about a fixed shaft 12 produces a rotation of the crawler belt 16, see Col. 7, lines 41-44. The crawler belt 16 passes over guiding rollers 17, see Col. 4, line 15. Positioning means 40 with bearing unit 44 biases the crawler belt towards the wall 3 of the bore hole 2. Staron et al. '862 does not teach or suggest any linkages, as claimed in claim 3 of the present application.

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Guerrero et al. '192 teaches a downhole tractor 10 having crawler tracks incorporated into each track assembly 28. The track assembly 28 is connected to the tractor housing 26 by lower and upper arms 36, 38. The tractor 10 includes a link assembly 44 that is connected to the track assembly 28 and activated by an actuator for deployment of the track assembly, see Col. 6, from line 44. Guerrero et al. '192 fails to teach or suggest a hinge pin connecting the third link to the terminal element that is positioned on the opposite side of the central longitudinal axis relative to the first link, per claim 3.

Freeman '318 and Harmes '464 also fail to teach or suggest any sort of link arrangement, per claim 3, and definitely not the specifically claimed elements recited therein.

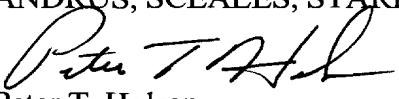
In view of the clear distinctions noted above, claim 3 is believed allowable over the cited references. Claims 4-10 depend directly or indirectly from claim 3 and are thus also believed allowable for the reasons stated above, as well as for the detailed subject matter recited therein.

Conclusion

The present application is thus believed in condition for allowance with claims 3-10. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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